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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BAUMANN et al.

Title: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND METHODS  
FOR DETECTING HEPATITIS C VIRAL  
NUCLEIC ACIDS

Appl. No.: 10/011,855

Filing Date: December 4, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 1645

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.  <u>Jodie M. Price</u> (Printed Name)  <u>[Signature]</u> (Signature)  <u>March 27, 2002</u> (Date of Deposit)
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Box Missing Parts  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Notice to File Missing Parts dated January 29, 2002, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Please amend the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the following:

A1

5. (Amended) The oligonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the oligonucleotide is 5' [2'-chloro-7'-phenyl-1,4-dichloro-6-carboxyfluorescein (VIC)]- CCG GGA GAG CCA TAG TGG TCT GCG (SEQ ID NO. 7)- [6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA)] 3' or 5' [6-carboxyfluorescein(FAM)]- TTG GCA ACA GTG GCA TGC ACC G - (SEQ ID NO. 8) [6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA)]3'.